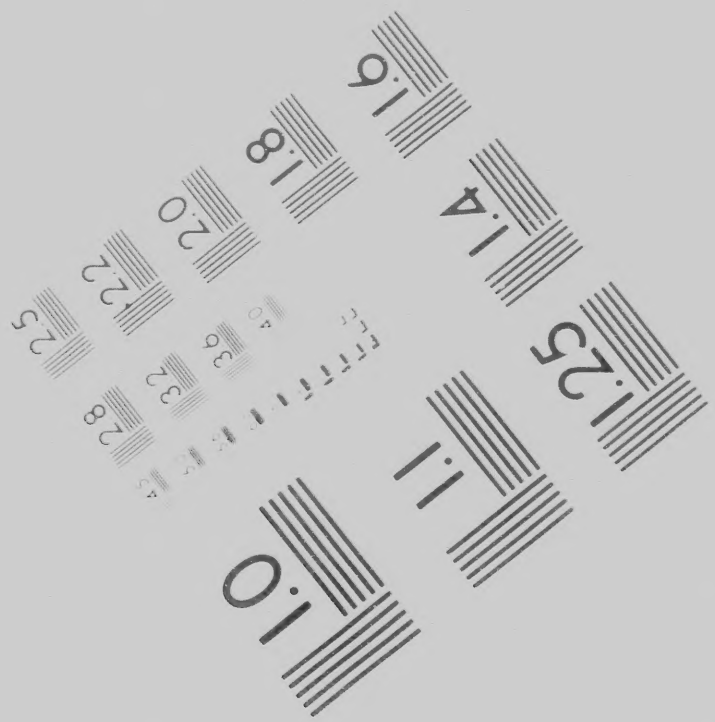
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Reported June 6. finally June 7. agreed to & ordered

THE committee, to whom were referred the act of the legiſlature of Virginia, of the 2d of January, 1781, and the report thereon, report, that they have conſidered the ſeveral matters referred to them, and obſerve, that the legiſlature of Virginia, by their act of 2d January, 1781, reſolved that they would yield to the Congreſs of the United States, for the benefit of the ſaid ſtates, all right, title and claim which the ſaid commonwealth hath to the lands north-weſt of the river Ohio, upon the following conditions, viz.

1. That the territory ſo ceded ſhould be laid out and formed into ſtates, containing a ſuitable extent of territory, not leſs than one hundred, nor more than one hundred and fifty miles ſquare, or as near thereto as circumſtances would admit; and that the ſtates ſo formed ſhould be diſtinct republican ſtates, and admitted members of the federal union, having the ſame rights of ſovereignty, freedom and independence as the other ſtates.

2. That Virginia ſhould be allowed and fully reimburſed by the United States, her actual expences in reducing the Britiſh poſts at the Kaſkaſkies and St. Vincents; the expence of maintaining garriſons and ſupporting civil government there, ſince the reduction of the ſaid poſts, and in general all the charge ſhe has incurred on account of the country on the north weſt ſide of the Ohio river, ſince the commencement of the preſent war.

3. That the French and Canadian inhabitants, and other ſettlers of the Kaſkaſkies, St. Vincents and the neighbouring villages, who have profeſſed themſelves citizens of Virginia, ſhould have their poſſeſſions and titles confirmed to them, and ſhould be protected in the enjoyment of their rights and liberty; for which purpoſe troops ſhould be ſtationed there at the charge of the United States, according to their uſual reſpective proportions in general charge and expenditure, and ſhould be faithfully and *bona fide* diſpoſed of for that purpoſe, and for no other uſe or purpoſe whatſoever.

4. And therefore that all purchaſes and deeds from any Indian or Indians, or from any Indian nation or nations, for any lands within any part of the ſaid territory which have been or ſhould be made for the uſe or benefit of any private perſon or perſons whatſoever, and all grants within the ceded territory inconſiſtent with the chartered rights, laws and cuſtoms of Virginia, ſhall be deemed and declared abſolutely void and of no effect, in the ſame manner as if the ſaid territory ſtill remained ſubject to, and part of the commonwealth of Virginia.

5. That all the remaining territory of Virginia included between the atlantic ocean and the ſouth ſide of the river Ohio, and the Maryland, Pennſylvania and North-Carolina boundaries ſhould be guaranteed to the commonwealth of Virginia by the ſaid United States.

Whereupon your committee are of opinion, that the firſt condition is provided for by the act of Congreſs of the 10th of October, 1780.

That the ſecond condition is ſubſtantially comprehended in the engagement made by Congreſs in the ſaid act, and that one commiſſioner ſhould be appointed by Congreſs, one by the ſtate of Virginia, and another by the two commiſſioners, who, or a majority of whom, ſhall be authoriſed and empowered to adjuſt and liquidate the account of the neceſſary and reaſonable expences incurred by the ſaid ſtate for the purpoſe mentioned in the ſaid condition.

With reſpect to the 3d condition, the committee

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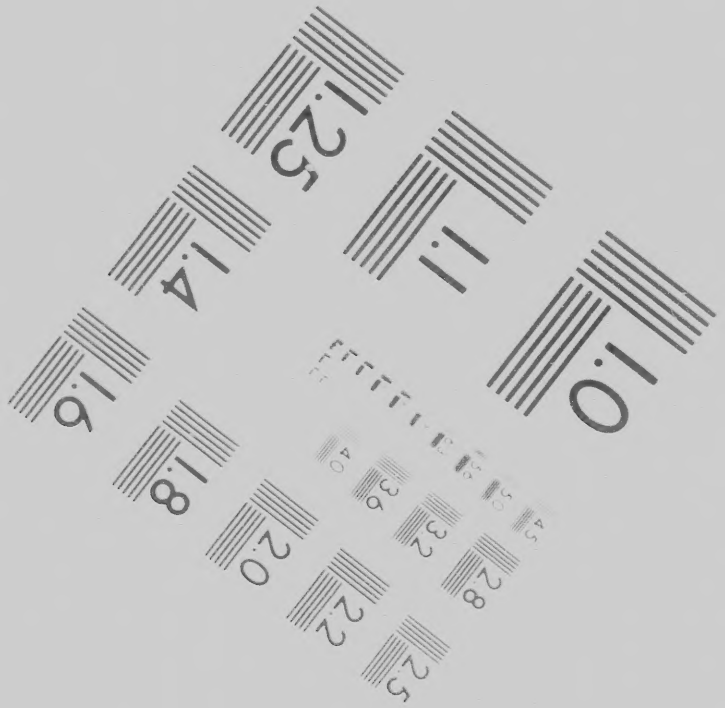

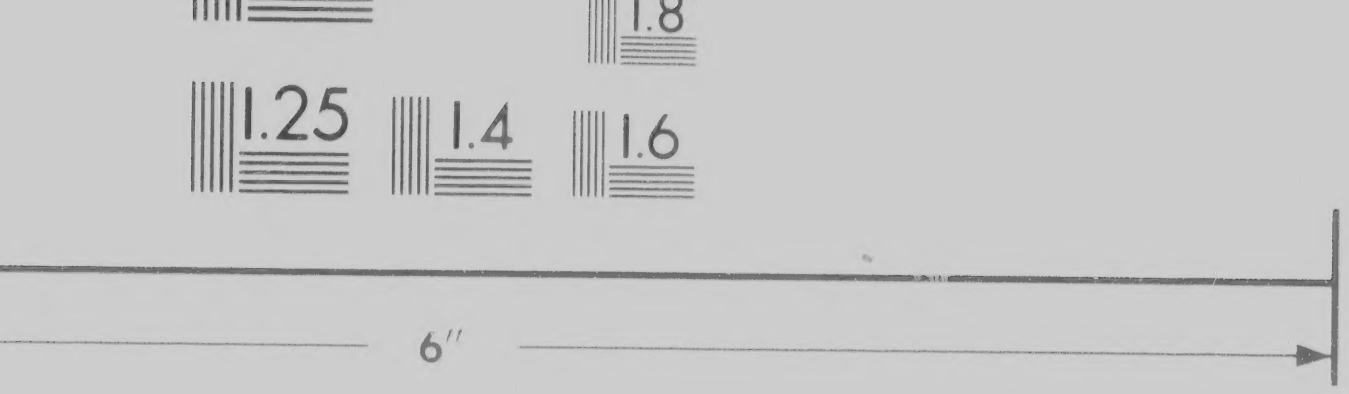

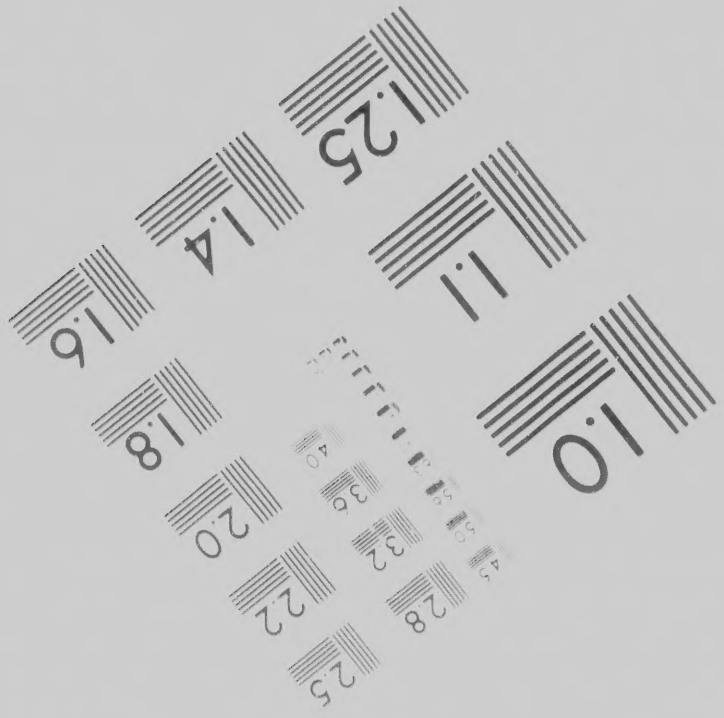

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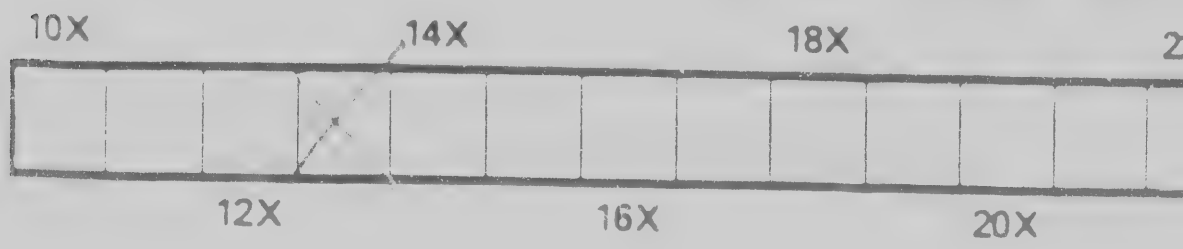

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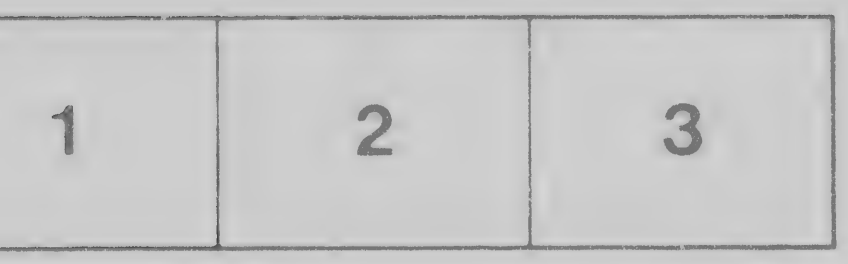

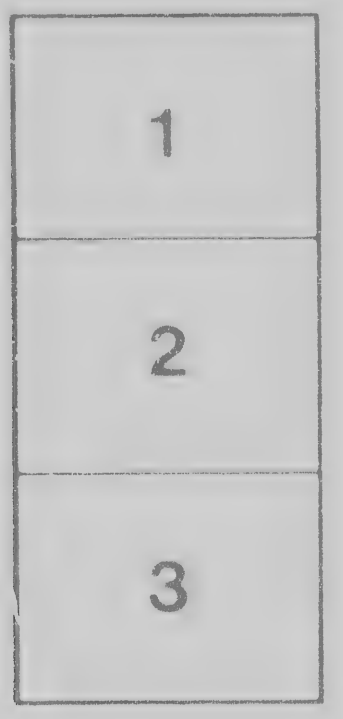

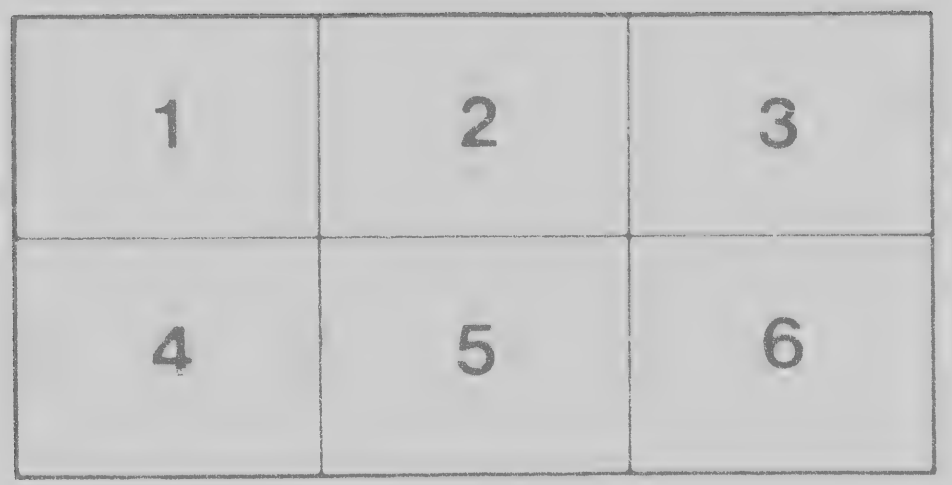

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ens of Virginia, ſhould have their poſſeſſions and titles
onfirmed to them, and ſhould be protected in the enjoy-
ent of their rights and liberty; for which purpoſe
oops ſhould be ſtationed there at the charge of the U-
ited States, to protect them from the encroachments of
e Britiſh forces at Detroit, or elſewhere, unleſs the e-
nts of the war ſhould render it impracticable.

4. As colonel George Rogers Clarke planned and exe-
uted the ſecret expedition by which the Britiſh poſts were
educed, and was promiſed, if the enterprize ſucceeded,
liberal gratuity in lands in that country, for the officers
nd ſoldiers who firſt marched thither with him, that a
uantity of land not exceeding one hundred and fifty
ouſand acres, ſhould be allowed and granted to the ſaid
fficers and ſoldiers, and the other officers and ſoldiers
hat have been ſince incorporated into the ſaid regiment,
be laid off in one tract, the length of which not to ex-
ed double the breadth in ſuch place, on the north-weſt
de of the Ohio, as the majority of the officers ſhould
uſe; and to be afterwards divided among the ſaid offi-
rs and ſoldiers in due proportion, according to the laws
Virginia.

5. That in caſe the quantity of good lands on the ſouth-
ſt ſide of the Ohio, upon the waters of Cumberland
ver, and between the Green river and Teneſſee river,
hich have been reſerved by law for the Virginia troops
on continental eſtabliſhment, ſhould, from the North-
arolina line bearing in further upon the Cumberland
nds than was expected, prove inſufficient for their legal
unties, the deficiency ſhould be made up to the ſaid
oops in good lands, to be laid off between the rivers
ioto and Little Miamis, on the north-weſt ſide of the
ver Ohio, in ſuch proportions as have been engaged to
em by the laws of Virginia.

6. That all the lands within the territory ſo ceded to
e United States, and not reſerved for, or appropriated
any of the beforementioned purpoſes, or diſpoſed of
bounties to the officers and ſoldiers of the American ar-
y, ſhould be conſidered as a common fund for the uſe
d benefit of ſuch of the United American States as
ve become or ſhall become members of the confedera-
n or federal alliance of the ſaid ſtates, Virginia inclu-

account of the neceſſary and reaſonable expences in
red by the ſaid ſtate for the purpoſe mentioned in
ſaid condition.

With reſpect to the 3d condition, the committee
of opinion, that the ſettlers therein deſcribed ſhould h
their poſſeſſions and titles confirmed to them, and
protected in the enjoyment of their rights and fr
ties.

Your committee are further of opinion, that the 4
and 6th conditions being reaſonable, ſhould be agr
to by Congreſs; with reſpect to the 7th condition, y
committee are of opinion, that it would be improper
Congreſs by a reſolve to declare the purchaſes and gr
therein mentioned abſolutely void and of no effect;
that the 6th condition, engaging how the lands bey
the Ohio ſhall be diſpoſed of, is ſufficient on t
point.

As to the laſt condition, your committee are of op
on, that Congreſs cannot agree to guarantee to
commonwealth of Virginia, the land deſcribed in
ſaid condition without entering into a diſcuſſion of
right of the ſtate of Virginia to the ſaid land, and
by the acts of Congreſs it appears to have been their
tention, which the committee cannot but approve, t
void all diſcuſſion of the territorial rights of indivi
ſtates, and only to require and accept a ceſſion of t
claims, whatſoever they might be to vacant territo
Your committee conceive this condition of a guaran
to be either unneceſſary or unreaſonable; it ſtands
if the land abovementioned is really the property of
ſtate of Virginia, it is ſufficiently ſecured by the ceſſ
ration, and if it is not the property of that ſtate, th
is no reaſon or conſideration for ſuch a guaranty.

Your committee, therefore, upon the whole recom
that if the legiſlature of Virginia will make a ceſſion
formable to this report, Congreſs ſhall accept ſuch
ſion; and that a committee be appointed to repair to
ſtate of Virginia, make the proper repreſentation to
legiſlature, and endeavour to obviate any ſcruples
ceſſary on the part of that ſtate for carrying the views
Congreſs into effect.

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